

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed August 20, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-10 and 17-23 will be pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 17-19, 21, and 23 are amended, and 11-16 are canceled herein. No new matter is believed to have been entered.

Before proceeding with the merits, Applicants wish to gratefully acknowledge Examiner Nguyen's willingness to conduct a brief interview with the undersigned on Monday, October 20, 2003. During the interview, Examiner Nguyen indicated that if the claims were amended to more explicitly recite the configuration of the support(s) and the structural relationship of the windings being wrapped around the outside of the supports, that the claims would distinguish over the cited art. As will be explained below, Applicants believe the amendments to the claims are consistent with this suggestion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-18, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,666,016 (Cooper). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a rotor for use in a high speed generator that includes a shaft, a plurality of spokes extending radially from the shaft, and a plurality of supports each positioned proximate one of the spokes, and recites, *inter alia*, wherein each one of the supports at least partially surrounds a respective one of the spokes, and includes an inner face positioned proximate its respective spoke, and an outer face, and a plurality of coils of wire windings, each wrapped around a respective one of the support outer faces and a respective one of the spokes.

Independent Claim 17, relates to a method of retaining wires of a coil within a desired region relative to a rotor shaft that includes positioning at least one support on a first spoke extending radially from the shaft, and recites *inter alia*, wherein the at least one support includes a flange, an inner face positioned proximate the first spoke, and an outer face, and wrapping the wires of the coil around the outer face of the support.

Cooper relates to a winding support for a brushless generator rotor. The Office Action

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

states that the configuration of the winding retainer (40) disclosed in Cooper corresponds to that of the support recited in independent Claims 1 and 17. For at least the following reasons, Applicants submit that the claims, at least as amended herein, overcome this alleged correspondence.

Specifically, Cooper fails to disclose, or even remotely suggest, at least the above-noted features of independent Claim 1. Namely, Cooper fails to disclose a plurality of coils of wire windings, each wrapped around an outer face of the supports. As disclosed at least in FIG. 13, none of the windings (27) are wrapped around the outer face of the winding retainer (40); rather, the windings (27) are wrapped around only a portion of an inner face of the winding retainer (40). Consistent with this, Applicants further submit that Cooper fails to disclose or suggest the step of wrapping the wires of the coil around the outer face of the support, as recited in independent Claim 17. Indeed, Cooper discloses a step that is exactly the opposite - placing the winding retainer (40) around the windings (27), so that the windings are wrapped around only a portion of an inner face of the winding retainer.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 7, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Cooper, and Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Cooper and U.S. Patent No. 5,780,951 (Stephens). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claims 4, 7, 19, and 20, Cooper, as was noted above, fails to disclose or suggest at least one feature recited in each of independent Claims 1 and 17. Hence, Cooper cannot render obvious any claims which depend from these independent claims. With respect to Claims 2 and 3, while not conceding that Stephens discloses or suggests what is proffered in the Office Action, it is nonetheless submitted that this citation fails to make up for at least the noted deficiency of Cooper with respect to independent Claim 1. Namely, Stephens also fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of coils of wire windings, each an outer surface of the supports. Hence, Stephens cannot render obvious these dependent claims.

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the § 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1 and 17 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, entry and consideration of this Amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The present Amendment places the application in better form for appeal, which Applicants fully intend to pursue if necessary. Applicants do not believe that the present Amendment raises new issues requiring further search or consideration. Therefore, entry and consideration of the present Amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and are hereby requested.

Hence, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

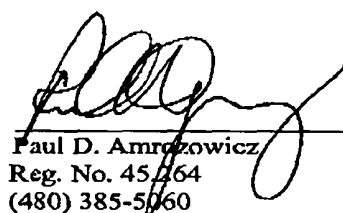
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 20, 2003

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